



Convention to Combat Desertification

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Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility

Facilitating access to funding under the Global Environment Facility land degradation focal area allocations and set aside

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Note by the secretariat

Summary

Adequate financial and technical support and capacity-building have been identified by Parties as the major needs and most pertinent constraints on meeting their obligations in terms of national action programme (NAP) alignment and reporting within the Convention.

The present document aims to provide Parties at the tenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention with a needs assessment for a global support programme in support of NAP alignment and the forthcoming reporting process (2012–2013). It highlights the objectives of such a programme and the need for a coherent and coordinated process that ensures capacity building targeted to country Parties.

Taking into consideration that the Global Environment Facility (GEF) has already made provision for an umbrella project for up to 70 Parties as an option for direct access or access through a GEF implementing agency to enabling activities funding, Parties may wish to provide guidance on their preferred modality to receive support. Specifically, Parties may wish to clarify whether such an umbrella project should be complemented with other components to ensure a coordinated and coherent approach to the reporting and alignment process under the Convention, as proposed in the present document.

In the light of the estimated budget of such a global support programme, Parties may also wish to provide guidance on how the additional financial requirements can be secured in time.

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I. Introduction

1. In accordance with several decisions of the Conference of the Parties (COP), the Convention and its Parties, with technical and financial support from the Global Environment Facility and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in 2010 implemented the first steps required for the performance review and assessment of implementation system (PRAIS), the new monitoring and assessment framework of the Convention. Over 120 Parties and other reporting entities successfully submitted their official reports to the secretariat using the new indicator-based, harmonized template made available through the PRAIS portal. This has allowed the establishment of a solid, quantitative baseline for monitoring progress towards the achievement of the objectives of the 10-year strategic plan and framework for enhancing the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy), most notably on performance indicators, financial flows and best practices on sustainable land management (SLM) technologies. This achievement, with GEF support to the Convention through UNEP, UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and the secretariat's efforts, was recognized by Parties at the ninth session of the Committee for the Review of the implementation of the Convention (CRIC 9) as bringing about a paradigm shift in the implementation of the Convention.

2. In reviewing the preliminary results from the 2010 reporting and review process, CRIC 9 confirmed that the adoption of PRAIS represents a fundamental step towards evidence-based decision-making.¹ The Parties confirmed their strong commitment to the full implementation of PRAIS, including through the incorporation of the impact indicators during the 2012–2013 reporting exercise, and called for further improvement of the approach and strengthening of the capacity-building activities for country Parties.² Furthermore, analysis of the progress made against performance indicator CONS-O-10³ for outcomes 3.3 and 3.4 of The Strategy shows that of the more than 120 reporting countries, only two had a National Action Programme (NAP) that was fully aligned with The Strategy.⁴ CRIC 9 clearly identified NAP alignment as a priority and called for an intensification of efforts by affected Parties, including through financial assistance from the GEF.⁵

3. Adequate financial and technical support and capacity-building have been identified by Parties as the major needs and most pertinent constraints on meeting their obligations in terms of NAP alignment and reporting within the Convention.

4. The present document aims to provide Parties with a needs assessment for a global programme to support both the formulation and alignment of NAPs, and the forthcoming reporting process (2012–2013). It highlights the objectives of such a global programme and

¹ See in particular: ICCD/CRIC(9)/16, p.15, paragraph 84 (<http://www.unccd.int/cop/officialdocs/cric9/pdf/16eng.pdf>); but also, among others, the opening statement by Francisco Armando Gandia, President of the COP on the occasion of the opening of CRIC 9, Bonn, Germany, 21 February 2011. <<http://www.unccd.int/cop/cric9/statements/COP%20President%20-%20CRIC.pdf>>.

² ICCD/CRIC(9)/16, p.15, paragraphs 84, 87 and 88; p. 16, paragraph 91; and p. 17, paragraph 105. <<http://www.unccd.int/cop/officialdocs/cric9/pdf/16eng.pdf>>.

³ ICCD/COP(9)/13, Annex III – CONS-O-10 “Number of revised NAPs/SRAPs/RAPs reflecting knowledge of DLDD drivers and their interactions, and of the interaction of DLDD with climate change and biodiversity”.

⁴ ICCD/CRIC(9)/5 <<http://www.unccd.int/cop/officialdocs/cric9/pdf/5eng.pdf>>.

⁵ ICCD/CRIC(9)/16, pp.5–6.

the need for a coherent and coordinated process that ensures capacity building targeted to country Parties. Taking into consideration that the GEF has already made provisions for an umbrella project (with a GEF contribution of the maximum amount of USD 50,000 per country, for up to 70 GEF-eligible countries) as an option for direct access or access through a GEF implementing agency to enabling activities funding, Parties at CRIC 10 may wish to provide guidance on whether such an umbrella project should be complemented with other components to ensure a coordinated and coherent approach to the reporting and alignment process under the Convention, as proposed in the present document.

5. In the light of the estimated budget of such a global support programme, Parties may also wish to provide guidance on how the additional financial requirements can be secured in time.

II. Needs assessment for a global programme to support national action programme alignment and reporting

A. Programme objective(s)

6. The proposed programme aims to support global and national actions that increase the capacities of countries to fulfil their obligations in accordance with the provisions of the Convention. The **long-term objective** is to contribute to better targeted investments in SLM worldwide achieved through country-driven, results-based NAPs aligned with The Strategy and based on solid, scientific knowledge of the impacts of desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) and SLM responses. The **immediate objective** of the programme is to support the NAP alignment and reporting processes by providing direct financial support to Parties, and technical assistance in terms of effective guidance, strengthened scientific and technical capacity for planning, implementing and monitoring of the implementation of the Convention at the national level, and support for the establishment of relevant systems and tools. The aligned NAPs will be linked to a rigorous reporting and review process, including national-level impact indicators, knowledge management systems and tracking tools, based on the performance and impact indicators provisionally adopted by the COP. National reporting tools will be internalized and linked to national processes, encouraging a feedback loop with the strategic objectives of the Convention.

7. At the global level, the project will aim to support the Convention and its Parties by establishing a suitable enabling environment for NAP alignment and monitoring assessment and reporting, including through the development of: (a) effective guidance and training materials for NAP alignment; (b) a toolkit for national monitoring of DLDD and NAP implementation, (c) comprehensive reporting tools, including templates, guidelines and a glossary, that will serve to ensure a harmonized and coherent framework and approach by all Parties, and (d) upgrading of the PRAIS portal to accommodate impact indicator-based reporting and modifications suggested by Parties after its initial use in 2010.

8. At the regional level, project activities will build on the partnerships established during the 2010 reporting process and the capacity of selected regional or subregional Reference Centres to strengthen national capacities and systems for NAP alignment and country-driven monitoring and reporting of DLDD and NAP implementation in accordance with reporting requirements. Special attention will be given to providing the required technical support for the adoption of the new set of impact indicators and for identification and use of additional nationally identified indicators to inform a biophysical and socio-economic assessment as the basis of the NAP and to complement the global set of indicators. As demonstrated by the PRAIS project in 2010, a decentralized approach will

ensure that the project capitalizes on existing expertise in the regions and contributes to further develop capacities at the national and regional levels, increasing the sustainability of the project interventions and fostering South-South cooperation. Following a Training of Trainers workshop, a series of regional/subregional training workshops will be delivered and mechanisms put in place to provide continual technical support to countries with the implementation of their national level activities. Notably with the introduction of the impact indicators in the next reporting round, the level of technical assistance required is envisaged to be much higher than with the performance indicators and other templates introduced in 2010.

9. At the national level, the project will provide direct financial support to up to 70 participating country Parties for the alignment of their NAPs to The Strategy and the preparation of the second leg of the fourth national reports, which will fully comply with Convention obligations and national development needs. Capacity for baseline data collection and national analysis of the indicators to inform NAP implementation and monitoring as well as reporting will be developed through guidance materials, case studies and workshops with a view to mainstreaming DLDD and SLM information into broader national level processes. Country Parties that will chose the direct access option under the GEF enabling activities for the land degradation focal area would have to use their own funds to joint training and access technical support from the Reference Centers, noting the GEF funds gained through direct access can only be spent on approved activities at national level.

B. Programme components

10. The project has five major components:

- (a) Preparation of reporting tools (new and revised templates and guidelines for reporting);
- (b) Training and technical assistance at the regional and subregional levels;
- (c) Knowledge management, learning and sharing (including upgrade of the PRAIS portal);
- (d) Enabling activities at the national level for the reporting and NAP alignment processes;
- (e) Outreach and awareness raising on DLDD on the basis of reported results.

11. Components (a) and (c) will ensure that guidance from Parties at the tenth session of the COP (COP 10) will be incorporated into reporting templates for the use of Parties. Work will also include updating the online reporting PRAIS portal to ensure that it will be ready to receive the second round of reports, including information on impact indicators. As for the NAP alignment process, the programme will ensure that coordinated toolkits and training materials will be prepared for use at the national level.

12. Component (b) aims to provide technical assistance in the form of subregional/regional training facilitated by Reference Centres, as well as technical assistance throughout the reporting process.

13. Component (d) includes assistance for enabling activities at the national level. It is to be noted that the GEF has made provision for a maximum amount of USD 50,000 for up to 70 GEF-eligible country Parties, with options either to request direct access through the GEF secretariat or request an implementing agency to assist in receiving direct access to enable activities to support the preparation of national reports as well as the formulation and alignment of NAPs.

14. Finally, component (e) allows publication of the results from the fourth national reporting and NAP alignment processes with the aim of widely publicizing the findings from the process of the implementation of the Convention to decisions makers and the public at large as part of the communication strategy.

C. Programme budget

15. A preliminary budget for the global support programme is presented in the table below. Tentative sources of funding are: (a) a GEF contribution for enabling activities at the country level; (b) contributions from the secretariat and the Global Mechanism (staff time and financial allocations from core and extra-budgetary resources); (c) contributions from other potential donors; and (d) estimated contributions (in-kind and possible cash) from national budgets.

Preliminary budget for the global support programme

| Project component | GEF | Co-funding | | | | Total |
|--|------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| | | UNCCD | GM | Other donors | National budgets | |
| 1. Preparation of reporting tools (performance and impact indicators) | 0 | 145 860 | 0 | 223 250 | 0 | 369 110 |
| 2. Training and technical assistance at the regional and subregional levels | 0 | 182 325 | 0 | 2 829 675 | 0 | 3 012 000 |
| 3. Knowledge management, learning and sharing | 0 | 684 184 | 0 | 413 362 | 0 | 1 097 546 |
| 4. Enabling activities at the national level for the reporting and NAP alignment processes | 3 500 000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 575 000 | 5 075 000 |
| 5. Outreach and awareness-raising on DLDD | 0 | 175 998 | 0 | 127 500 | 0 | 303 498 |
| <i>Subtotal 1</i> | <i>3 500 000</i> | <i>1 188 367</i> | <i>0</i> | <i>3 593 787</i> | <i>1 575 000</i> | <i>9 857 154</i> |
| Project management cost (5% GEF amount; staff employment UNCCD and GM) | 175 000 | 1 155 010 | 470 000 | 0 | 0 | 1 800 010 |
| <i>Subtotal 2</i> | <i>3 675 000</i> | <i>2 343 377</i> | <i>470 000</i> | <i>3 593 787</i> | <i>1 575 000</i> | <i>11 657 164</i> |
| GEF Agency (UNEP) fees and programme support costs (10% GEF total cost; 13% UNCCD and GM) | 367 500 | 304 639 | 61 100 | 467 192 | 0 | 1 200 431 |
| Total | 4 042 500 | 2 648 015 | 531 100 | 4 060 979 | 1 575 000 | 12 857 595 |
| <i>Co funding</i> | <i>31%</i> | <i>21%</i> | <i>4%</i> | <i>32%</i> | <i>12%</i> | <i>100%</i> |

III. Conclusions and recommendations

16. Parties at CRIC 10 may wish to:

(a) Encourage UNEP to continue consultations with the secretariat, the GM and the GEF as appropriate with a view to producing the necessary project documentation for a global programme of support to NAP alignment and the reporting process, taking into consideration the feedback received from Parties at CRIC 10, and to submit it to the GEF secretariat for consideration by the forthcoming GEF Council meeting;

(b) Urge Parties to consider endorsing the global support programme or, alternatively, requesting direct access or access through a GEF Agency to funding under the enabling activities in accordance with GEF procedures, in order to be enabled to meet their obligations under the Convention;

(c) Invite the GEF to consider increasing the contribution to the global support programme;

(d) Call on developed country Parties, relevant international organizations and financial institutions to provide technical and financial contributions to the global support programme;

(e) Direct the Executive Secretary and the Managing Director of the GM to engage in resource mobilization for the global support programme in order to secure the additional financial resources required in time for the next reporting process in 2012.
